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POET HOLMES IS DEAD

His Demise Takes Place at His Boston Home.

DEATH FROM HEART FAILURE.

He Had Been Failing For the Last Four or Five Years, but His Last Ailment Was of Only Ten Days' Duration—He Was Unconscious a Short Time Before He Died—Biographical.

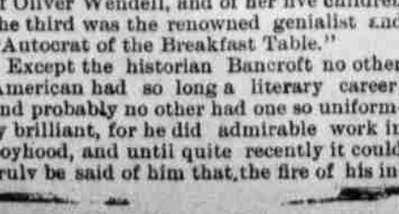
BOSTON, Oct. 8.—Oliver Wendell Holmes, the well known poet and author, died at his home, 296 Beacon street, at 12:15 p. m. Sunday. Heart disease was the immediate cause of his death, though the doctor has slowly been failing for the last four or five years. An asthmatic difficulty also assisted in the final breaking down of the aged "Autocrat."

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Ten days ago Dr. Homes returned to his Beacon street residence from his summer home at Beverly farms. Before that time slight symptoms of improvement in his condition were noted and the removal was thought advisable. It proved, however, very fatiguing and the doctor did not regain his former condition. Last Friday a sudded attack of heart failure seized him, which with the long standing asthmatic trouble, prostrated him, but Sunday he had apparently recovered. After the physicians had gone, however, the doctor was seized with a severe spasm, and before medical aid could be called, he had passed away. He was unconscious for a short time previous to his death.

Around his bedside were gathered the members of his family, Judge Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., the only surviving son; Mrs. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., and Edward J. Holmes, nephew of the poet. Although the poet's death occurred shortly after midday, it did not become known until a late hour last night. The house was darkened and police guarded the entrances to prevent the household from being disturbed.

Just north of the common in Cambridge, Mass., and overlooking what is perhaps the most interesting spot historically in Massachusetts, stands a curious gambrel roofed house. It is at least 160 years old. It was used by the committee of safety in 1775, and Benedict Arnold's first commission was made out there. Not far away stands the famous elm under which George Washington took command of the American army. Washington occupied the house for a time. A little later it became the home of Dr. Abiel Holmes, historian of New England, clergyman and author, and in it, on the 29th of August, 1809, was born his famous son, Oliver Wendell Holmes.



BIRTHPLACE OF O. W. HOLMES.

All the historic and patriotic associations of the place seemed to have had their influence on the boy. To the last of his life he was proud of his birthplace, and the spirit engendered and so often expressed in words and acts there seems to have entered into the very bone, blood and fiber of the genial doctor. When he was but 20 years old he sat in an attic room of the quainted old house and penned his stirring lines on the proposed destruction of the frigate Constitution, "Old Ironsides," as was afterward thus described:

And one who listened to the tale of shame,
Whose heart still answered to that sacred name,
Whose eyes still followed o'er his country's tides
Thy glorious flag, our brave Old Ironsides!
From yon lone attic on a summer's morn,
Thus mocked the spoilers with his schoolboy scorn.

The family was truly noble. It was also old, as age goes in New England. John Holmes settled in Woodstock, Conn., in 1686. His grandson, David, served as a captain of British troops in the French war and surgeon in the patriot army of the Revolution. His son Abiel, who was born in 1763 and died in 1837, was graduated from Yale in 1783, studied theology and became noted both as a preacher and a writer. His second wife was a daughter of Oliver Wendell, and of her five children the third was the renowned genialist and "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table."

Except the historian Bancroft no other American had so long a literary career, and probably no other had one so uniformly brilliant, for he did admirable work in boyhood, and until quite recently it could truly be said of him that the fire of his intellect was not dimmed or his natural force abated. At 16 he wrote musical lines glowing with optimism, and at 83 he looked upon the world without asperity and expressed himself with all the vivacity of youth. His native constitution and good habits probably had most to do in maintaining this uniform cheerfulness, and from his earliest years he breathed an intellectual atmosphere. His father was a scholar of unusual attainments, his mother a lady of many social attractions, and among his schoolmates were Alfred Lee, afterward bishop of Delaware, Margaret Fuller and Richard Henry Dana.

While preparing for college at Phillips Andover academy he made his first attempt at versification, turning the first book of the Ænied into heroic couplets. In 1829 he was graduated from Harvard, among his classmates being William H. Channing, Benjamin R. Curtis and James Freeman Clarke. He was poet of the class at commencement and was one of the 16 chosen into the Phi Beta Kappa society, an honor of which he was proud to the last of his life, as appears by many allusions in his writings.

His first poem to attract general attention was the famous one on the Constitution, beginning:

Ay, tear her tattered ensign down!
Long has it waved on high,
And many an eye has danced to see
That banner to the sky;
Beneath it rung the battle shout
And burst the cannon's roar;
The meteor of the ocean air
Shall sweep the clouds no more.

It stirred the popular heart as did the "Star Spangled Banner." The young poet's fame became national in a month and worlwide soon after. The poem was published in almost every paper in the United States and circulated by thousands in handbills. A universal protest was echoed back from every section and the Constitution was saved. His suddenly won popularity was never once lost during the 60 odd years of literary life which followed, and though he was often attacked for special utterances, the attack always had in it something of sorrowful tenderness. This was all the more remarkable because most of the attacks were on religious grounds.

The young gradnate had decided, or more likely it had been decided for him, that he was to be a lawyer, and he studied law for one year. During this year he wrote "Evening: By a Tailor," and other popular pieces of humor, then decided against the law and went to Paris as soon as he could afford it to study medicine. In Paris, it is said, the romance of his early life occurred, but for this there is no better authority than an exquisite little poem nominally addressed to a woman who was kind to him in a sickness while there, and poets are not held to a literal accountability. After three years abroad he published his first volume of poems in 1836, the most noted productions in it being "My Aunt" and "The Last Leaf."

In 1839 he was chosen professor of anatomy and physiology at Dartmouth, and in 1840 married Amelia Lee, daughter of Judge Charles Jackson of the supreme court of Massachusetts. A son of this marriage, Oliver Wendell, Jr., born March 8, 1841, made a very honorable record in the war for the Union, and has attained high rank as a jurist. In 1882 he was made a member of the supreme court of Massachusetts, having previously published various law works.

In 1847 Dr. Holmes succeeded Dr. John C. Warren as professor of anatomy and physiology in the medical school at Harvard and soon after became prominent as a lyceum lecturer. Thence, till 1860, his larger works appeared in rapid succession, works on literature and medicine alternating, for it is not the least of the curious facts about this many sided man that if he had not been a poet, a humorist, a novelist and a genial essayist he would have ranked high as a medical writer. As it is, few people even know that he was the author of six valuable treatises on medicine and took three prizes for minor medical essays.

The zenith of his power was attained in his contributions to The Atlantic Monthly for the first three or four years of its existence—1857 to 1861. The most popular of all his productions, the one which secured him the title by which he is best known, "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," appeared as a serial in the first numbers of The Atlantic, and its advent was an era in literature. Enthusiastic editors declared that Dr. Holmes had created a new species of literature and opened an inexhaustible mine. It was compared to "Noctis Ambrosianæ" and to many other works of the kind, always to their disparagement, and in the 33 years since it appeared in book form it does not appear to have lost favor. The Schoolma'am, the Divinity Student and the "young fellow called John" are still quoted with delight by millions.

The "Professor at the Breakfast Table" followed, and then "The Professor's Story," which appeared in book form as "Elsie Venner: A Tale of Destiny." He continued to give the public new works occasionally till in 1887, when "Our Hundred Days in Europe" appeared. Several of his poems have given the public popular phrases of almost universal use, such as "the wonderful one hoss shay," for instance.

As a poem of occasions, so to speak, Dr. Holmes has never been surpassed. Unlike nearly all other writers, many of his best poems have been written to order, as it were, that is, for some commencement day or festal occasion.

Murderer Identified.

SEATTLE, Wash., Oct. 8.—Thomas Blank, the murderer of Charles Birdwell, has been positively identified as the murderer of Marshal Jeffreys of Puyallup. He was taken to the court and pleaded guilty to a charge of murder in the first degree. His trial is set for Oct. 16.

An Ocean Disaster Recalled by a Death.

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., Oct. 8.—Captain Charles A. Sawyer is dead. He had command of the bark Orpheus 20 years ago when she collided and sunk the steamer Pacific off Cape Flattery, entailing a loss of nearly 400 lives and upward of $1,000,000 in gold dust.

DEATH OF A. G. CURTIN

He Was Pennsylvania's Famous War Governor.

HE WAS THE SOLDIERS' FRIENDS

He Served in Congress For Three Successive Terms and Was Minister to Russia During Grant's Term of the Presidency. A Brief Historical Sketch of His Eventful Life.

BELLEFONTE, Pa., Oct. 8.—Ex-Governor Andrew G. Curtin died at 5 o'clock Sunday morning. His end was peaceful, he having been unconscious during the last 12 hours of his life. All the members of his family were at the bedside when he passed away. Mr. Curtin had been in feeble health for some weeks, but his condition grew serious on Thursday last and from that time he sank rapidly.

ANDREW G. CURTIN.

Death was caused by old age—the ex governor being in his 80th year—combined with nervous trouble, which upon reaching the vital point in the brain, ended his life. When the case first took on a serious aspect, physicians were summoned, but they then abandoned all hopes of recovery and the death of the old war governor was not a surprise.

It has been decided at the urgent request of Governor Pattison to bury ex-Governor Curtin with a military escort. It will consist of a regiment of infantry, a troop of cavalry and a battery of artillery, and is the escort accorded by military etiquette to a commander-in-chief. The whole will be in command of a brigadier commander. Ex-Governor Beaver has charge of the arrangements of the funeral, which will be held under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic on Wednesday.

Governor Pattison and his staff, Major Snowden and the commanders of the three brigades of the national guard, together with the members of their respective staffs, will attend the funeral. Adjutant General Greenland has issued an order, directing five companies, each of the Twelfth and Fifth regiments, Hunt's battery of Pittsburg and the Sheridan troop, Tyrone, to report to him at Bellefonte on Wednesday morning to attend the obsequies. Seventeen guns will be fired at the state arsenal during the services.

Andrew Gregg Curtin was the chief executive of the Keystone state during the civil war, and because his services to his country were so great then he is chiefly known as Pennsylvania's "war governor." But his public services, aside from those he rendered during the great contest, were of sufficient importance to have given a lesser man lasting fame. He served in congress for several years, he represented the United States government for three years at the court of the czar of all the Russias, and he was a lawyer of extended practice.

He was a native of Bellefonte, Pa., and was born April 22, 1815. His father, who was from County Clare, Ireland, established one of the first iron manufactories in Pennsylvania. From the father the young man inherited the robust physique of the County Clare man and a keen perception of humor that stood him in good stead during his long and perplexing public career. He was educated at the common schools of Bellefonte and the academy at Milton, and when he had finished the course of the latter institution two professions were open to him—the law and the ministry. He chose the former, and was admitted to the bar in 1839. He won his first case, and quickly built up a good practice. The law and politics were much more closely related in those days than they are now, and it is not surprising that he began to take an active part in public affairs while yet a very young man.

It was during the campaign of 1840, when he was but 25 years of age, that young Curtin took the stump for William Henry Harrison. Four years later he was even more prominent in the canvass for Henry Clay, his early manhood's political idol. In 1848 and 1852 he was a Whig elector. In 1854 he was considered one of the leaders of his party, and his nomination for governor was strongly urged that year. He declined the honor because Governor Pollock, an old schoolmate, desired a re-election and worked for his renomination and election with unbounded zeal. Pollock was elected, and Curtin became his secretary of state. In this position he was ex-officio superintendent of common schools, and to this branch of his duties he devoted much thought and careful attention. The reforms which he inaugurated were many and important, and the excellent superintendent system of Pennsylvania is a lasting monument to his wisdom and organizing capacity.

The Republican party was at the time in its formative state, and Curtin was one of its chief spirits. He was desirous of securing the Republican nomination for governor in 1860, and backed by Thaddeus Stevens, Galusha A. Grow, Alexander K. McClure, John W. Forney and Matthew Stanley Quay, all of them then young men, but strong in the counsels of the new party, he won in the convention and was elected by a majority of 32,000 votes.

His first acts after his nomination were not put forth, however, in behalf of his own election, but were turned toward the national Republican nominating convention at Chicago. Everything seemed to point to the nomination of Seward, but along with David Dudley Field, Thaddeus Stevens, Horace Greeley, David Wilmot and others, Mr. Curtin did not believe Seward's nomination would be likely to bring out the entire strength of the party at the polls, and he joined the other gentlemen named in the fight for Lincoln's nomination.

All the world knows of the success of the movement and of the exciting national canvass that followed. The state contest in Pennsylvania closed in October and was no less exciting than the national canvass. "As goes Pennsylvania, as goes the Union" was the cry everywhere. Mr. Curtin took to the stump as soon as he returned from Chicago, and his labors were incessant until the close of the state campaign. The victory won then went a long way toward insuring national victory in November, and the fact that Mr. Lincoln's majority in Pennsylvaina was larger than Curtin's bore testimony to the fact that his exertions were not slackened with his own triumph.

Governor Curtin was inaugurated Jan. 1, 1861, and was immediately confronted with unprecedented difficulties. It was evident that the south would revolt. Curtin first met Lincoln on Feb. 22 at Harrisburg. The president-elect was on his way to Washington, and at a private conference, at which Governor Curtin was present, the startling news was told that a plot against Lincoln's life had been discovered. Governor Curtin was foremost in devising the plan for Lincoln's secret journey to the national capital that is now in history. He invited Lincoln to spend the night at his house, and to allay suspicion left the remainder of the presidential party at the hotel. Instead of taking the president to his house, Curtin drove with him to the outskirts of the town, where a special train was in waiting, the telegraph wires having previously been cut to prevent news of Mr. Lincoln's movements becoming public.

Shortly after his inauguration President Lincoln called Governor Curtin to Washington and asked him to recognize the existence of civil war in a message to the Pennsylvania legislature. This Curtin did in a document that, considering the haste with which it was prepared and all the attendant circumstances, must be regarded as one of the strongest of modern state papers. Its effect was instantaneous—almost magical—and within 48 hours the state legislature had authorized the governor to raise and equip troops for the defense of the Union and had appropriated half a million dollars to pay the bills.

When Lincoln called for 75,000 men, the soldiers of Pennsylvania were the first state volunteers to reach the national capital. Then with wonderful foresight Governor Curtin asked and obtained from the legislature power to raise a reserve of not less than 15 nor more than 30 regiments to serve for three years or till the close of the war, the forces to be transferred to the general government if necessary. An appropriation of three and a half millions to organize and equip these reserves was made, and they were ready before the battle of Bull Run. They were offered to the government in time to have taken part in that engagement, but were not accepted. They were sent to Washington to defend the capital, however, when the Union forces were [illegible] but their existence even was unknown to President Lincoln until they [illegible] before the capital. These troops preserved their identity intact until the close of the war.

The conference of the governors at Altoona Sept. 24 1862, was the result of correspondence between Curtin and Governor Andrew of Massachusetts and personal interviews between these two and President Lincoln. Its outcome was the famous address indorsing Lincoln's emancipation proclamation—a document that undoubtedly had much to do with the popular support that was ultimately accorded to the president.

Throughout the war Governor Curtin supported Mr. Lincoln's policy unswervingly. He left the gubernatorial chair in 1867 and was shortly afterward mentioned for United States senator, but was defeated by Simon Cameron. He was also named for vice president in the convention of 1868, but Schuyler Colfax secured the nomination.

Mr. Curtin worked earnestly for the election of Grant and Colfax that year, and was made minister to Russia by the president in recognition of his services, holding the post for three years and returning home in 1872. During the nine years immediately following Mr. Curtin was not in public life. Then he was nominated for congress as a Democrat in 1881, and being elected served for six years. At the close of the Forty-ninth congress he retired to his home in Bellefonte, and the remainder of his life was devoted entirely to business pursuits.

Proclamation Issued.

HARRISBURG, Oct. 8. — Governor Pattison issued a proclamation last night expressing his profound sorrow for the death of ex-Governor Curtin and paying a high tribute to his public service as executive of the state and in the other important positions which he held. He invokes for the bereaved family of the ex-governor the sympathy of the people of Pennsylvania, and orders all flags on public buildings to be displayed at half mast and that several departments of the state government within executive control be closed on the day of the funeral, which will take place at 2 o'clock next Wednesday afternoon

Funeral of Rev. David Swing.

CHICAGO, Oct. 8.—The funeral services of the late Professor David Swing were held yesterday afternoon in Central Music hall, where he had preached for so many years. The services were attended by 3,000 people, and fully as many more were unable to obtain admission to the hall.

JUMPED THE TRACK.

Passenger Train Wrecked Near Bristol, Tennesse.

FIRE FINISHES THE DESTRUCTION

The Express and Mail Cars and Seven Coaches Entirely Consumed—Ten People Injured, Several of Them Fatally—The Disaster Due to Train Wreckers—Names of the Victims.

BRISTOL, Tenn., Oct. 8.—At a few minutes past 1 o'clock train No. 5 from New York on the Southern railway, jumped the track about three miles south of this city. The engine fell across the track and the express and mailcar jumped over it, and falling on their sides, were soon a prey to the flames, which consumed all the train—eight coaches—with the exception of the last Pullman, which was cut loose and backed from the train.

A train with physicians from this city arrived about an hour after the wreck, and immediately set to work to relieve the injured.

The injured are:

Samuel Smith, engineer, leg broken, scalded, buried under the wrecked train, taken out with difficulty; will probably die.

Will Holmes, fireman, head cut badly and scalded.

W. W. Rogers, express messenger, arm broken and head injured.

—— Tucker, postal clerk, ankle broken, cut in the head and back.

C. N. Markworth of Bristol, postal clerk, badly hurt in arms, legs, back and head.

W. H. Simpson of Mossy Creek, baggagemaster, arm broken and internal injuries.

Thomas McDermott, Michael Coleman, John Coleman, emigrants from Ireland, sustained severe injuries on the heads, thighs, chests, legs, and arms.

A foreigner, name unknown, was badly hurt in chest and legs, very serious.

Everybody was badly shaken up, and it is a miracle that many deaths did not result. Captain Bell, conductor, escaped with slight bruises.

The accident happened in a cut between two high embankments and was the result of a bolt having been placed on the rail by unknown persons. Great heroism was displayed by the passengers and crew, who were unharmed, in rescuing the injured.

FIRST SNOWSTORM.

A Blizzard Raging in South Dakota and Nebraska.

ST. PAUL, Oct. 8.—Reports from various parts of eastern South Dakota and the western part of Minnesota are to the effect that a severe snowstorm is prevailing, accompained by high winds and heavy rains. The snowfall at Huron, S. D., was heavy and lasted for three hours, while west and north of that city the storm was even more severe.

This is the first snow of the season and it seems likely to report for duty in this city before many hours, the mercury being on the down grade with a stormy wind from the west blowing at a lively rate.

Blizzard in Nebraska.

OMAHA, Oct. 8.—There are excellent prospects for a blizzard in Nebraska. The mercury is rapidly falling and the wind is blowing a gale. The freezing point had not been reached yet, but it is rapidly nearing that point.

Disaster on Lake Michigan.

ALPENA, Mich., Oct. 8.—A large 4-masted and steam barge, name unknown, is reported to have gone ashore on Sulphur island reef. It is blowing a gale from the southeast. The tug Ralph has gone to her assistance.

Cyclone Over the Gulf.

GALVESTON, Oct. 8.—Storm signals are displayed as a cyclone is reported in the gulf south of Port Eads, which is moving in a northwesterly direction at the rate of 40 miles an hour. The gulf is high and turbulent, indicative of some violent atmospheric disturbance passing over it.

STREETCAR ACCIDENT.

One Man Instantly Killed and a Number of Others Injured.

TACOMA, Oct. 8.—A shocking streetcar accident occurred about midnight in which George C. Chandler, general agent of the Northern Pacific in this city, was killed and several other passengers injured. The car was returning from the interstate fair grounds and was crowded with passengers. Chandler and other gentlemen were standing on the front platform. As the wheels struck the crossing on North Second street, the axle on the front truck broke near the right wheel. The car left the track and fell on its left side. Mr. Chandler fell under the car, the heavy wood and iron works crushing his head to a shapeless pulp. James O'Brien, another passenger, was forced down by the struggling of passengers. The iron roof of the car mashed his right leg.

The others injured are: James F. O'Brien, deputy county clerk, right leg mangled; Edward Pheare, left shoulder dislocated; M. Sidney, real estate agent, hurt about the face; Mrs. M. Sidney, bruised and cut in several places; Miss Bertha Laughton, rendered insensible and cut about the head; Mrs. W. Houston of Portland slightly bruised.

Death of Mrs. Fannie Chinn.

CHICAGO, Oct. 8.—Mrs. Fannie Chinn, the colored contralto singer who made a tour of Europe several years ago with the Fisk jubilee singers, died yesterday.